THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (d) As per the Labour Force Survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) during the year 1993-94 and 1999- 2000, the number of unemployed persons has marginally gone up from around 75 lakh in 1993-94 to 90 lakh in 1999-2000 as per Usual Status Approach. The main reason for increase in the unemployed persons was that the economy did not grow at the desired rate to provide employment opportunties to all the new entrants to the labour force and the backlog of the unemployed.

The approach to the Tenth Plan focusses on providing gainful high quality employment to the additions to the labour force and it is listed as one of the monitorable objectives for the 10th Plan and beyond. The growth strategy of the 10th Plan would lay emphasis on rapid growth of those sectors which are likely to create high quality employment opportunities and deal with the policy constraints which discourage growth of employment. Particular attention would be paid to the policy environment influencing a wide range of economic activities which have a large employment potential.

The total number of job seekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, registered with various Employment Exchanges in the country during the years (January to December) 1999, 2000 and 2001 were 59.7, 60.4 and 55.5 lakh respectively.

Telephone Facility in Villages in Almora District

* 109. CHAUDHARY HARMOHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORM ATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no telephone facility in Seem, Bungga, Siyalkot, Chanuli, Sarpatta, Kunjhina, Srikot, Kota and Majhali villages of Parti Kaklashon in Almora District of Uttaranchal;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and by when this facility is likely to be provided in these areas; and

(c) the steps being proposed by Government for development of telephone network and laying of optical fibre cable in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI

PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) to (c)Telecom facility has been provided in Siyalkot, Chanuli, Sarpatta and Majhali villages of Patti Kaklashon in Almora district of Uttaranchal. Seem, Bungga, Kunjhina, Srikot and Kota villages are located in remote areas and Telecom facility can be provided in these villages only on satellite terminals. It is planned to procure satellite terminals for remote villages of the country. Tender for procurement of satellite terminals has already been floated by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL).

In addition to satellite terminals, Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) systems with a range of 25 Kms are being inducted.

The exchange to which the above villages are to be parented are planned to be connected by optical fibre during 2002-2003. At present, 42 out of 43 exchanges in Almora district are connected on reliable media and 13 of these are on optical fibre. There is a plan to connect 5 more exchanges on optical fibre by 31st March, 2002.

Amendment to Central Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985

* 110 SHRINARENDRA MOHAN: SHRI
J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that Government are considering a proposal to amend the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985, so that the Administrative Tribunals could be abolished by the Central and the State Governments;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what alternative fora would be available to Government employees for redressal of their service grievances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government is considering suitable amendments to the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985 in view of certain judicial pronouncements as well as demands from a few States. The amendments proposed, among other things, include the enabling provision for the abolition of any Bench of the Central Administrative Tribunal and also for the abolition of a State